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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/677,842	10/02/2003	Robert Elliott Robotham	1400.1375460	9518

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EXAMINER

FAROUL, FARAH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2616

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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09/27/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/677,842	Applicant(s) ROBOTHAM, ROBERT ELLIOTT	
	Examiner Farah Faroul	Art Unit 2616	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 July 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 October 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. The following Office Action is based on the amendment filed on July 16, 2007, having claims 1-13 and figures 1-4.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Angle et al. (US 6,771,596 B1) in view of Hughes et al. (US 6,747,971 B1).

For claims 1, 6 and 10, Angle discloses sending, to the switch fabric by a first line card of the line cards, a first request for transmitting a first unit of traffic of a first priority to the switch fabric, the first request indicating a first output port for which the first unit of traffic is destined, (Figure 1, element 105, column 4, lines 20-51, column 6, line 53 to

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column 7, line 6 wherein requests are transmitted from the input port of the line card indicating the destined output port) and

Making a second request for a second unit of traffic having a second priority lower than the first priority and being destined to the first output port, for scheduling transmission of the first unit of traffic to the switch fabric (column 7, line 37-67 wherein requests are made in decreasing order of priority to the switch fabric)

For claims 1, 6 and 10, Angle discloses the entire claimed invention except for using, by the first line card, a first grant received from the switch fabric permitting transmission of the first unit of traffic to the switch fabric.

Hughes, from the same or similar field of endeavor, discloses a first grant phase allowing data transfer in response to a request to the switch fabric (column 4, lines 53-67, column 6, lines 27-40).

Thus, it would have been obvious to someone of ordinary skill in the art to combine the backpressure mechanism of Angle with the scheduling method of Hughes at the time of the invention. The scheduling method of Hughes can be implemented into the communication network of Angle by adding a grant phase to each transmission request. The motivation to combine the scheduling method of Hughes with the communication network of Angle is that it reduces latency in end-to-end communication.

For claim 2, Hughes discloses using a second grant issued in response to the first request for scheduling transmission of the second unit of the traffic to the switch fabric (column 5, lines 6-17 wherein the scheduling method comprises a second grant phase in response to a request for second data transfer).

For claim 3, Angle discloses the method of claim 1 wherein the first priority and the second priority are selected from a plurality of priorities corresponding to a respective plurality of service classes (column 7, lines 37-50 wherein the order of priority corresponds to a class of service in the scheduling cycle).

For claim 4, Hughes discloses the first line card sending the first request after the second request (column 4, lines 21-46 wherein the input control ports of the line card send a first request after a second request).

For claim 5, Angle discloses the first line card sends a first set of requests of a highest priority of a plurality of priorities, with the first set of requests corresponding to a first quantity of the traffic in an amount of guaranteed traffic flow serviced by the first line card, and sends a second set of requests of a lower priority of the priorities for a second quantity of the traffic (column 16, lines 4-30 wherein a plurality of requests associated with a plurality of priorities are received and the set of requests with the highest priority class of service level is granted).

For claims 7 and 11, Hughes discloses the first line card utilizing the first grant for transmitting the first unit of the traffic so as to conform to a latency criterion pertaining to a first data stream comprising the first unit of the traffic (column 15, lines 27-38 wherein grants corresponding to specific request are mapped into grant frames for data transmission).

For claims 8 and 12, Hughes discloses the first line card utilizing a second grant of the grants corresponding to the second request for transmitting a second unit of traffic corresponding to the first request to the switch fabric column 15, lines 27-38

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wherein grants corresponding to specific request are mapped into grant frames for data transmission).

For claims 9 and 13, Hughes discloses the first line card issuing the first request prior to the second request (column 12, line 66 to column 13, line 24 wherein primary requests are processed before secondary requests).

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed on July 16, 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant has argued that Hughes does not teach a grant is issued in response to a request for a unit of traffic (page 6 of arguments). Applicant has argued that Hughes fails to teach fails to teach a second grant in response to a second request for a second unit of traffic. Hughes teaches a first and second grant phases in response to first and second requests for units of traffic (column 5, lines 5-17 and column 6, lines 27-41). Applicant has argued that Angle fails to teach a line card sends a first set of requests of a highest priority of a plurality of priorities (page 7 of arguments). Transmit requests from the input ports (column 6, line 64 to column 7, line 6) of the line cards (105 of fig 1 of Angle) corresponding to a plurality of priority levels and the grant filter 905 selects the first set of requests with the highest priority and allows those requests (Angle, column 16, lines 4-30).

Conclusion

4. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

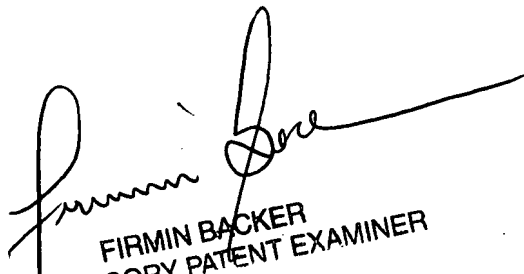
5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Farah Faroul whose telephone number is 571-270-1421. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 6:30 AM - 4 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Firmin Backer can be reached on 571-272-6703. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

F.F.



FIRMIN BACKER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER